



THE PADDLEFISH

Briefings from Barbara

Years ago, at an Earth Day event, I was manning the Master Naturalist table under the same tent as the Master Gardener's table. My tentmate was from England and a very nice man. We chatted off and on all day in between guests dropping by our table to gather information and grab a freebie or two. It was very pleasant until a woman demanded, from both of us, how to completely eradicate snakes from her yard. We, at first, gently tried to explain that taking a species out of her yard would upset the balance and she'd have more roaches, mice and so on. She'd have nothing of it. Finally, exasperated with her, I suggested she purchase a 14-floor condo in downtown Dallas. Problem solved! Oh man, the look I got from her as she stormed off would have melted concrete. My tentmate looked at me with a smile and called me "a pip". It was a compliment!

Inside this issue

May Financials	2
May Minutes	3
Book Club	4
Vols in Action	5
Kayaking 101	5
CLSP Clean Up	6
Chapter Info	7

That day, I was on the receiving end of rudeness and became rude myself. I'm not particularly proud of that moment. Since then, I have tried to listen when in a tense situation so the outcome can be a more harmonious one than on that day. I hope you'll do the same, especially with your fellow nature enthusiasts! Happy trails, y'all!



~Barbara Judkins, CBTMN President

JUNE MEETING !!!

We're back at Kellyville for our June 12th meeting, at 6pm. There will be some fun AT - maybe 30 minutes worth! Please come and join us.

TMN Welcomes Prospective New Members to Our Newsletter!

Look inside to find our meeting times and venues, volunteer opportunities, a list of officers, and much more.

**Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists
Financial Report for
May 1, 2023—May 31, 2023**

Beginning Bank Balance: 04/30/2023		\$ 26,597.82
Add Receipts: Amazon Smile	\$ 27.36	
New Members (3)	160.00	
Flotilla 23 Cash Donation	5.00	
2023 Dues	50.00	
Donation	<u>75.00</u>	
		+ 317.36
Less Expenses: Flotilla 23 Port-a-Jon	\$ 300.00	
Flotilla 23 Credit Card Refunds	245.00	
Flotilla 23 Donation to CLI	1,000.00	
Flotilla 23 Cash Withdrawal ²	730.00	
Flotilla 23	<u>204.37</u>	
		<u>-1,749.37</u>
Ending Bank Balance: 05/31/2023		\$ 25,165.81
Flotilla Fund	\$ 18,007.15	
Trainee Scholarship Fund	600.00	
General Fund	<u>6,558.66</u>	
		<u>\$ 25,165.81</u>

Notes:

~ Submitted by Charles Gillis, CBTMN Treasurer

**“And into the forest I go,
to lose my mind and find
my soul.” – John Muir**



Pictured: Terry Venden, Texas Master Naturalist in Training

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists Minutes For May 8, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 6:05pm with the following members present:

Phyllis Wilson, Linda Richtsmeier, Charles Gillis, Vicki Gilliland, Steve & Susan Sedberry, Ted & Stella Barrow, Cal Witt, Stella Smith, Trish Jones, Dudley Swofford, Barbara Judkins, Laura Wilson, Pam Andrews, Becky Gullette, and Kathy Koenig. Also attended by Terry Venden, Member in Training.

Cares, Concerns, Joys: Barbara Judkins daughter graduated with honors in Biology and has a job working with Chimp Haven. Susan reported that Sue Simmons had been given a good prognosis.

Treasurer's Report: Balance up \$5000 due to Flotilla. Most bills have been paid. Chapter agreed to donate a portion of funds to Caddo Lake Institute.

Minutes from the April meeting were approved as published in the Paddlefish.

VMS: Phyllis Wilson has re-certified! Congratulations!!!

Flotilla Wrap Up: 128 registered paddlers with a great turn out of volunteers...Many thanks to all who came out! With approximately \$19,000, we need to find ways to contribute to Caddo Lake. Ted suggested new trail signs. Discussion of procedure with Becky motioning that Ted investigate and bring estimates and details. Discussion of adding QR codes with digital map added to signs at paddle trails, linking to state site for maps.

Training Class: There are currently 6 committed (the minimum) with 2 more interested. Presenters are being lined up and asked to include at least 1 hour outdoor/field time. Some previous presenters and a couple of new presenters including Shannon Smith, Archaeologist and Josh Marcisz, Meteorologist. Still looking for additional presenters on topics of plants, foraging, animals, etc. Pam suggested an invasive species expert from Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Terry had spoken to a game warden at Flotilla who expressed interest in coming to speak. If you have any suggestions, please speak to Susan or Caroline.

Flower Bed at State Park: Brenda Cooper has asked for help with the flower beds at the State Park facility due to them being short staffed. Discussion on how best to help will be continued.

Trail of the Month: April TOTM was rained out. Kim Delaney will set up stakes to id plants along the trail. Vanessa will lead a walk to identify plants...come out for Volunteer or AT hours. Discussion of

(Continued on page 4)

"Live in the sunshine. Swim in the sea. Drink in the wild air." – Ralph Waldo Emerson

Continued from page 3

Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists Minutes For May 8, 2023 Cont.

work to be done trimming trees and cleaning up around sidewalks. The Equestrian Check-in flower bed is looking good! Kathy and Stella have been hard at work moving rocks and planting. Discussion of securing mulch.

Nature Book Club: Members commented on how interesting the current book selection is! Discussion of the book *Winged Obsession* by Jessica Speart will be held on Thursday, June 22nd at 6:00 at the Refuge.

FaceBook and other Social Media: Barbara is investigating and will have more information on how we can be more active on FB and other platforms.

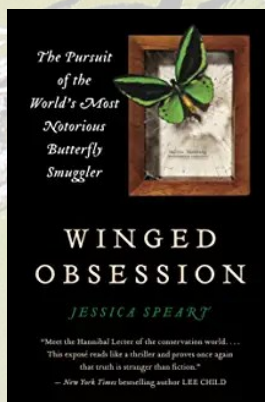
Board Meeting: Next board meeting will be on Monday, August 7th at the Refuge at 5:30...all are welcome!

Additional discussions: Volunteers are needed at the Jefferson Carnegie Library July 12, 19, and 26 to do 1 hour presentations with activities for 25 students aged pre-K to 4th grade. Contact Susan if interested in presenting. Charles initiated discussion of possible Chapter field trips...Caddo Mounds, Mineola Nature Preserve, Longview Arboretum, Dangerfield State Park. Also suggested was the possibility of earning AT hours in Louisiana at the Walter B Jacobs Memorial Nature Park. Other mentions were Red River Wildlife Preserve, Caddo Culture Day, Burn workshop/forestry presentation.

Trish will lead a "Kayaking 101" workshop on June 1st.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm. VT = .75 (45 minutes) plus travel time.

~ Submitted by Laura Wilson, Chapter Secretary



TMN Nature Book Club

The Nature Book club will meet on Thursday, June 22, at 6:00 p.m., at the Caddo Lake Wildlife Refuge. The book selection is *Winged Obsession: The Pursuit of the World's Most Notorious Butterfly Smuggler*, by Jessica Speart. Everyone is invited to attend. Please contact Caroline Hughes at cahughes8@gmail.com with any questions. We would love to have you join us!

Volunteers in Action



From L-R, Linda Richtsmeier, Phyllis Wilson, Kim Delony, Caroline Hughes, and Steve Sedberry listen as Trish Jones explains basic kayak safety.



Caroline, Phyllis, Kim and Trish ready to paddle Caddo!

Kayaking 101 on the Bayou

On Thursday, June 1, eight TMN novice kayakers met at Trish Jones's property to learn basic kayaking skills. After excellent instruction and tips from Trish, we launched our kayaks. We paddled across Fortune's Bend to the MLK cut, into an island of trees with a shady creek. Next, we cut back across Fortune's Bend and paddled the back side of Taylor Island. We took Froggy Creek that ends at Bois d'Arc bridge. These were beautiful areas away from most of the boat traffic. They are perfect for beginning paddlers.

On our trek, we saw Spatterdock flowers, water lilies, plenty of crested floating heart, some salvinia, a huge metal harvester from the 1940's that's still sunken in the lake, a bryozoan colony, blue herons, and turtles sunning.

And the best part -- none of us fell overboard!

Thanks to Trish for a great instructional day and for the heartfelt encouragement to the newbies!

Volunteers in Action Cleaning Up



Kathy Koenig and Stella Smith revamping the flower bed at CLNWR Equestrian Check-In station.



Kathy Koenig, Stella and Jack Smith, Becky Canter, Ted and Stella Barrow cleaning up at CLSP HQ.



CLSP HQ before clean up.



CLSP HQ after clean up. Amazing job, now waiting for plant approval from the state park.

"Going to the mountains is going home."— John Muir

Volunteer Opportunities

2023 OFFICERS:

Barbara Judkins
President

Susan Sedberry
Vice President

Laura Wilson
Secretary

Charles Gillis
Treasurer

Caroline Hughes
Susan Sedberry
Training Co-Directors

Laura Wilson
Class Rep.

Linda Richtsmeier
Membership Director

Vanessa Adams
Neace
Advisor

Doug Weir
Advisor

Please share pictures and updates of any presentations, field trips, etc. that is going on! We also can use interesting articles you come across. Email them to cypress-basintmn@gmail.com

Join the Bird Herd!



Volunteers needed to maintain the bird blinds at the Refuge.
Please contact Barbara Judkins

Join Bluebird Buddies



Volunteers to help maintain the bluebird houses and counts.
Please contact Sue Simmons

#TMNTuesdays

Speakers:
Jason R. Singhurst
and Tim Siegmund

Plant Ecology with Jason and Tim
June 13th, 12pm CST



Prepping with Vanessa for May Trail of the Month



2023 Meeting Dates

June 12th - Kellyville
July - no meeting
August 14th - Caddo Lake State Park
September 11th - Jefferson Transportation Center - POTLUCK!!
October 9th - Marshall Central Fire Station
November 13th - Caddo Lake State Park
December - no meeting

"Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability." - Sam Keen

Follow us:



CYPRESS BASIN CHAPTER | PO BOX 226 | KARNACK, TX 75661 | CYPRESSBASINTMN@GMAIL.COM 903.679.9817 |

[HTTP://TXMN.ORG/CYPRESS/](http://txmn.org/cypress/) | [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CYPRESSBASINCHAPTERTMN/](https://www.facebook.com/cypressbasinchaptertmn/)